GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:174
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
CHANNEL FOR REDRESSAL OF GRIEVANCES
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of armed forces personnel approaching the courts is on the increase year after year;

(b) if so, whether the existing channels are not sufficient for redressal of their grievances;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up more tribunals to provide alternative remedy to the armed forces personnel;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these tribunals are likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No uniform trend is discernible. In the Army and the Air Force the trend of approaching the courts by individual seems to be on the increase. However, in the Navy there is a substantial decrease in the personnel approaching the courts presently.

(b) The existing channels of redressal of grievances in the Armed Forces are considered by and large adequate.

(c) to (e): A proposal to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal to deal with the service matters and appeals arising out of the verdicts of the court martial concerning the three services is under active consideration of the Government and the modalities and other details are being worked out.